

I'll Give It My All... TOMORROW

BY SHUNJU AONO



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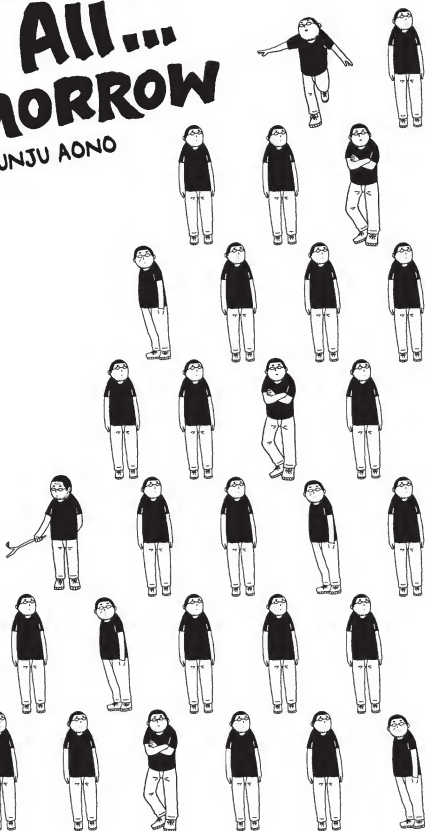


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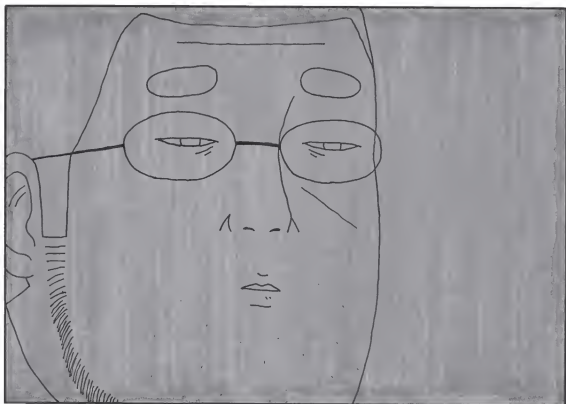
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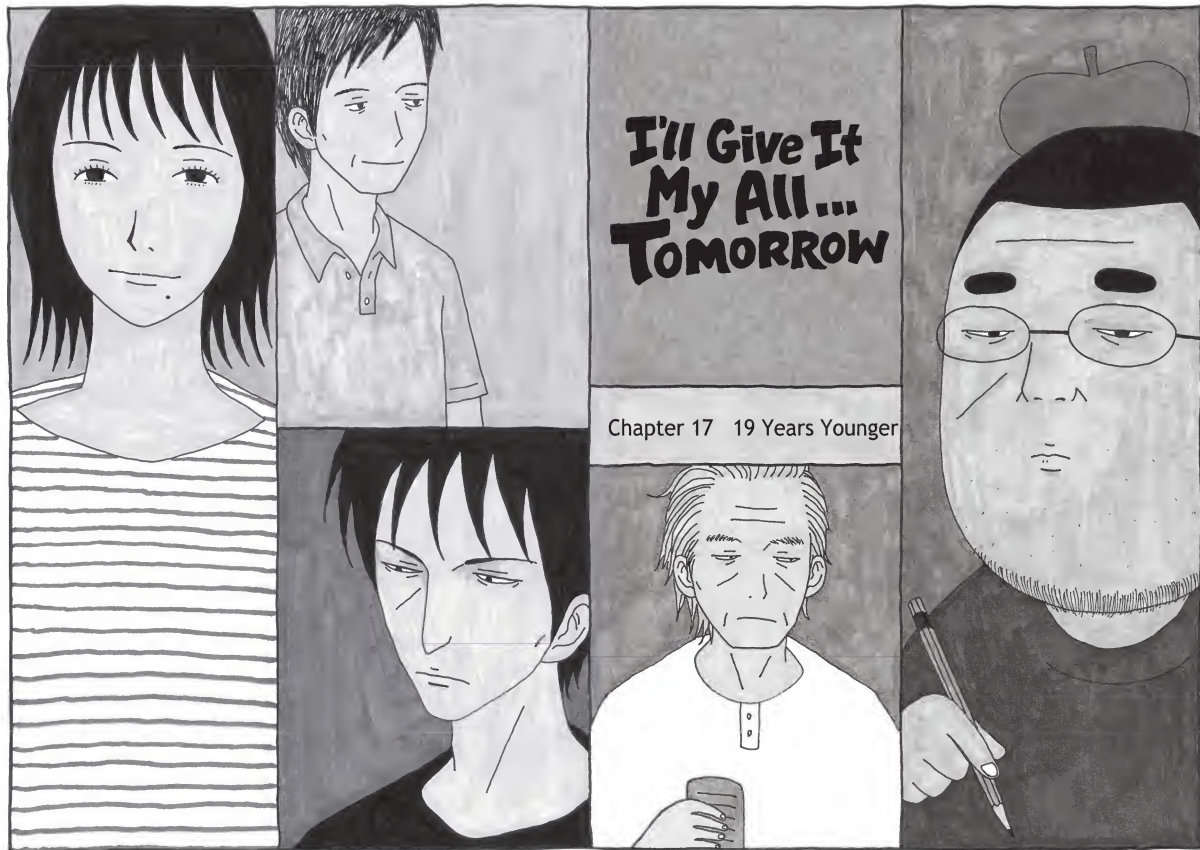
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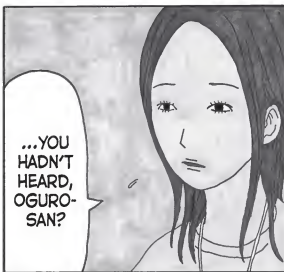
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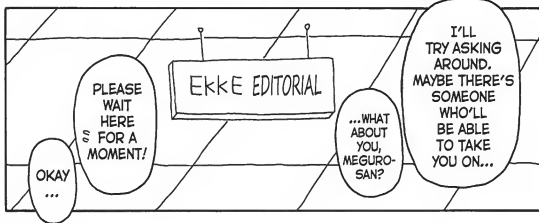
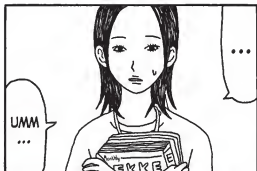


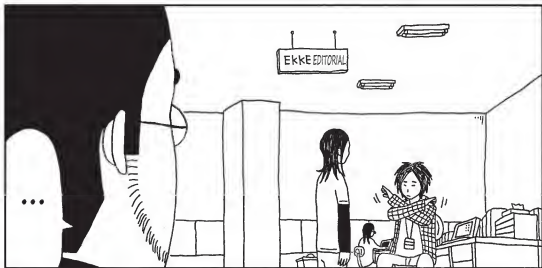
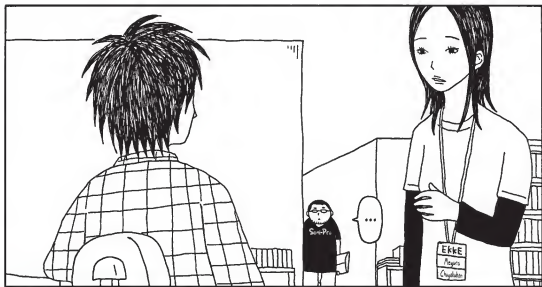
MURAKAMI
DOESN'T
WORK HERE
ANYMORE...

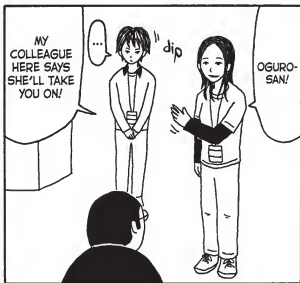
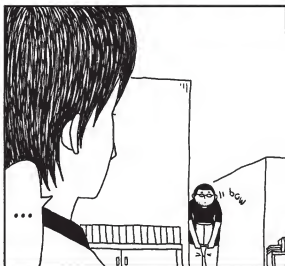








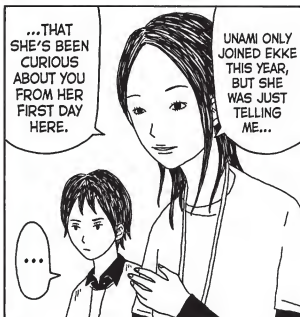






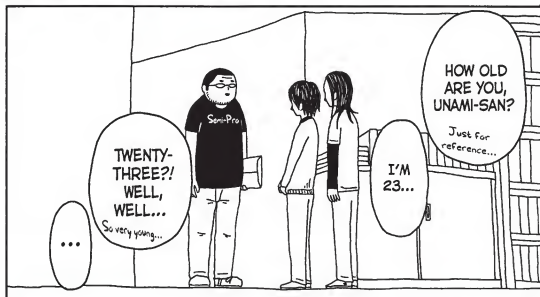


*Curious
about
me?!*



...THAT
SHE'S BEEN
CURIOUS
ABOUT YOU
FROM HER
FIRST DAY
HERE.

UNAMI ONLY
JOINED EKKE
THIS YEAR,
BUT SHE
WAS JUST
TELLING
ME...



TWENTY-
THREE?!
WELL,
WELL...

So very young...

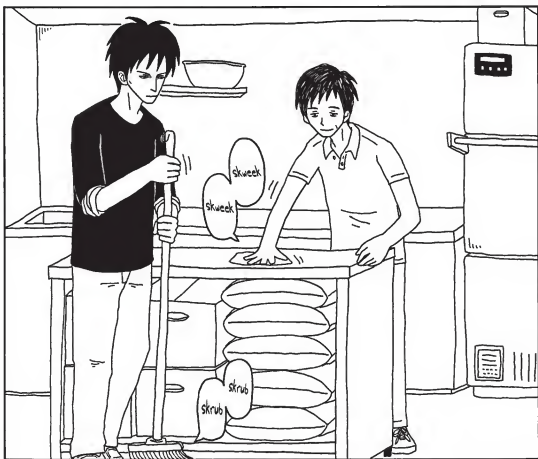
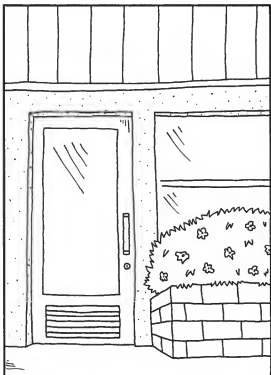
I'M
23...

HOW OLD
ARE YOU,
UNAMI-SAN?

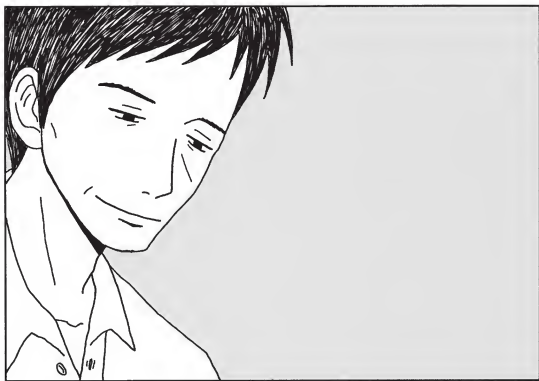
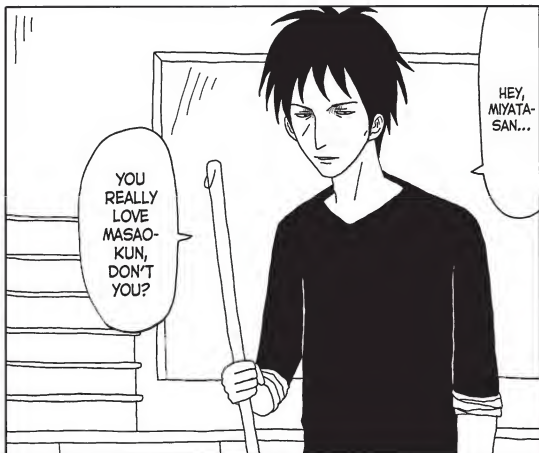
*Just for
reference...*

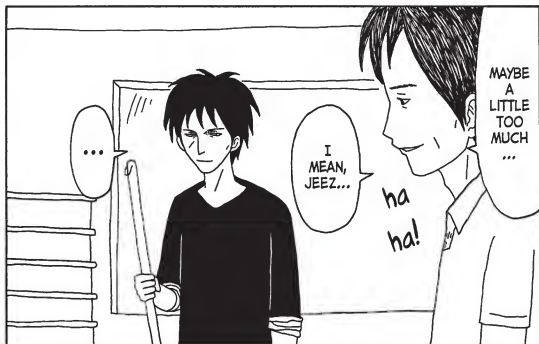
Hello, Unami-san!

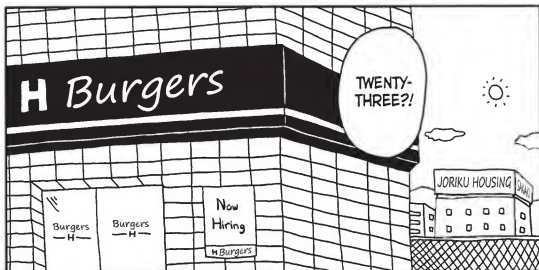
Good-bye, Murakami.



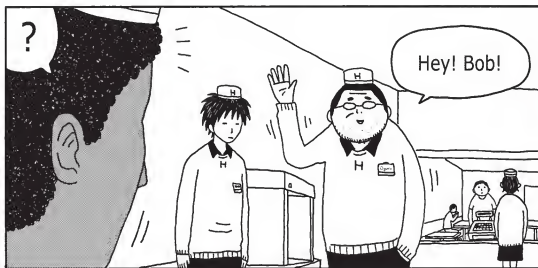


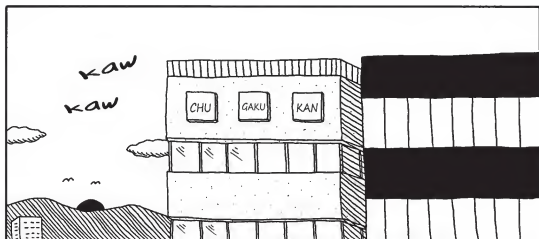


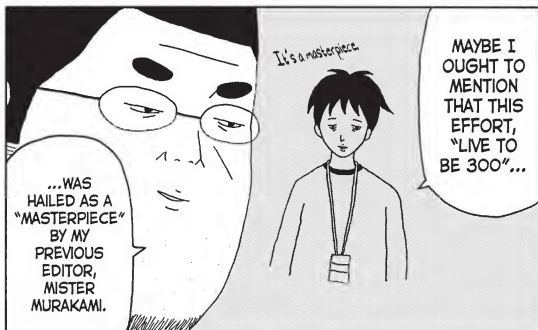


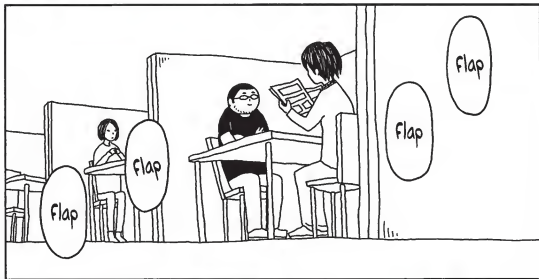


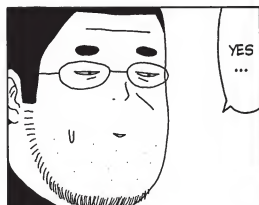


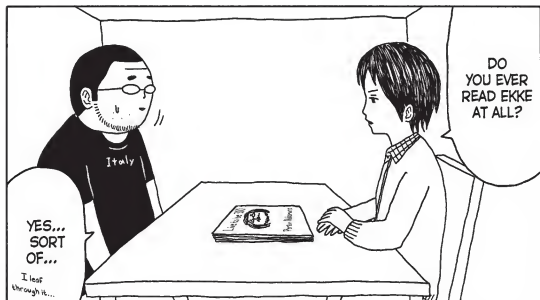


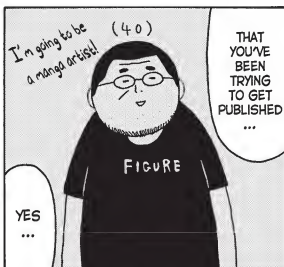
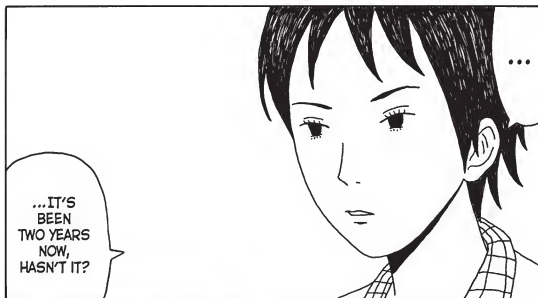


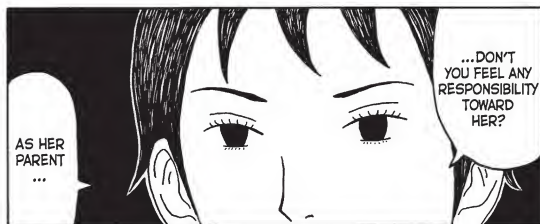
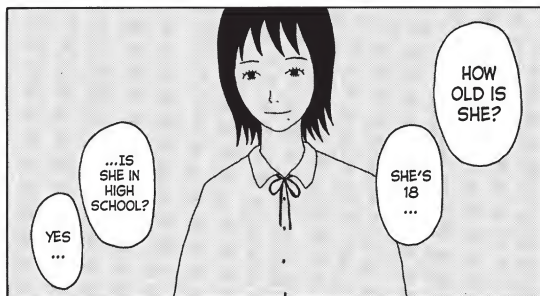


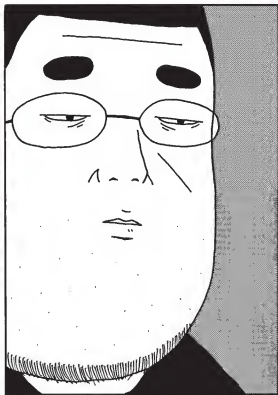
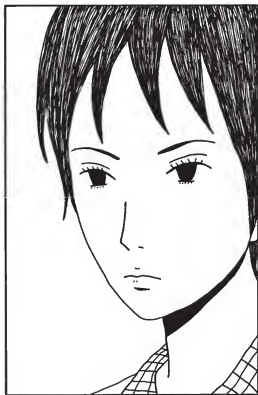
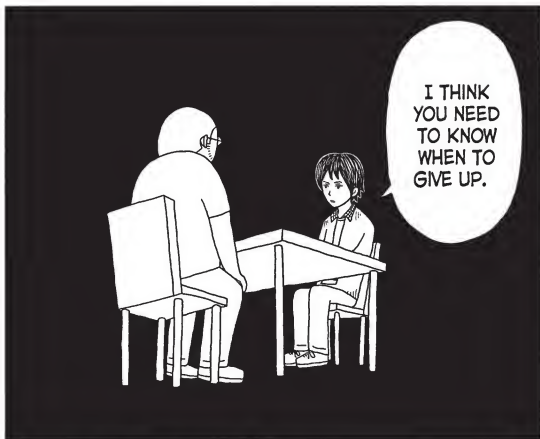


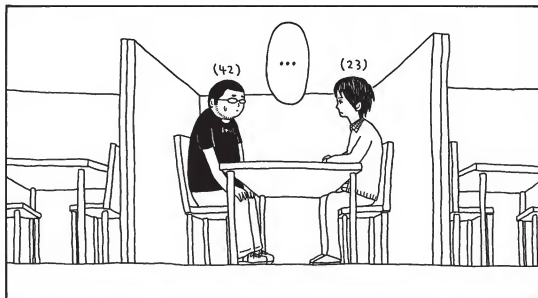












...GETS A
THUMBS
DOWN.



(42)



(23)

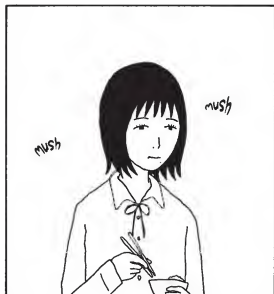
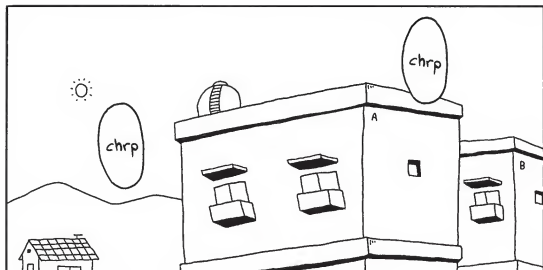
For
real.



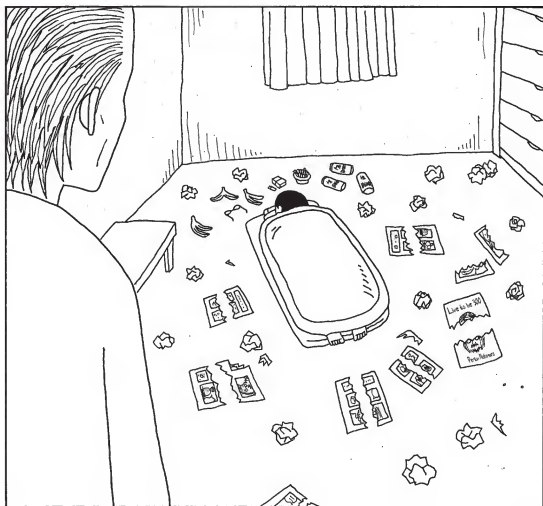
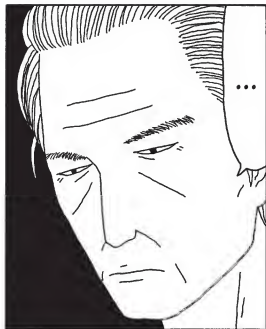
Chapter 18:

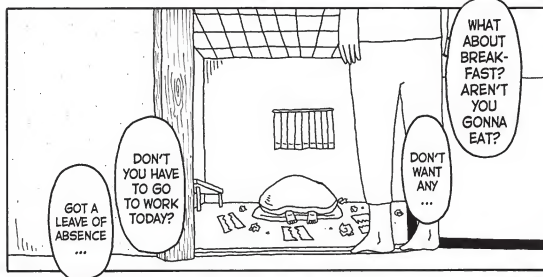
Setback





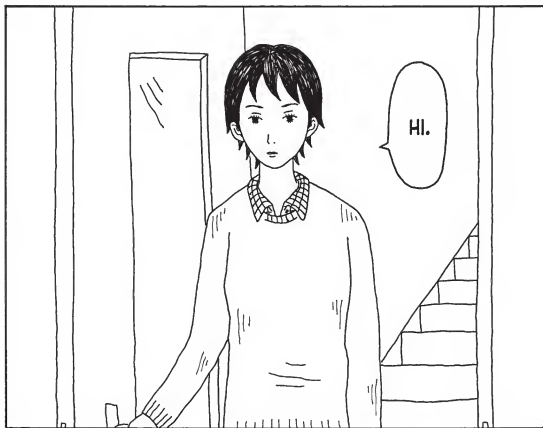
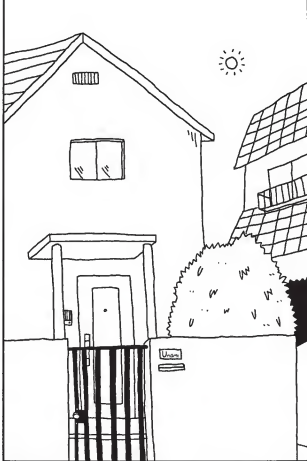
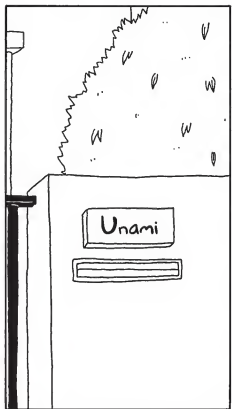


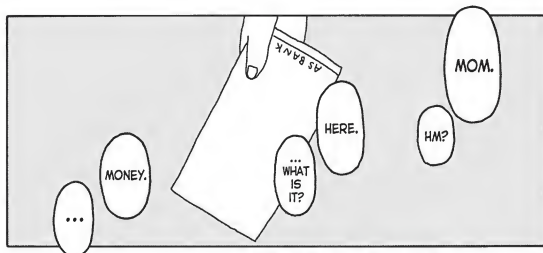


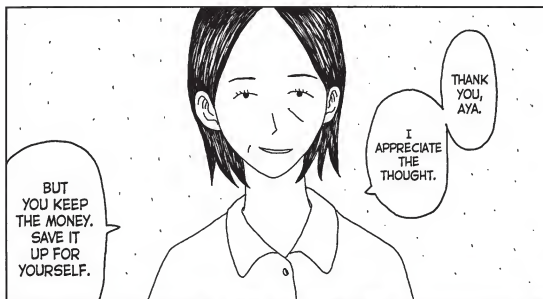
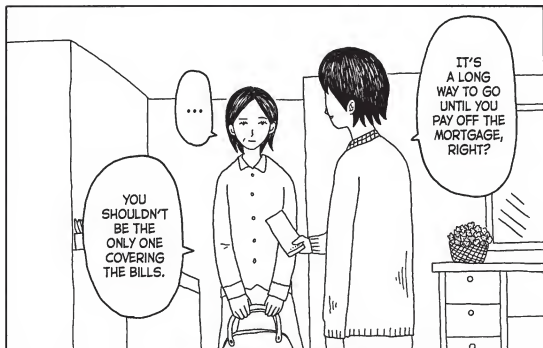






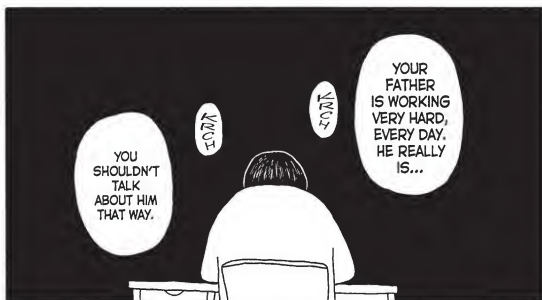
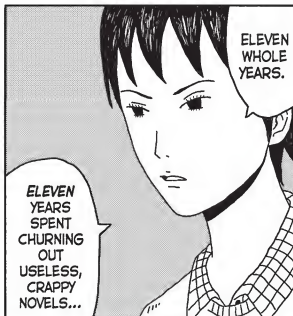


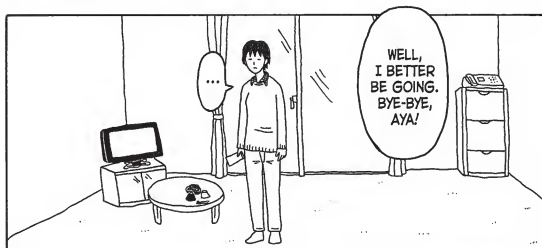
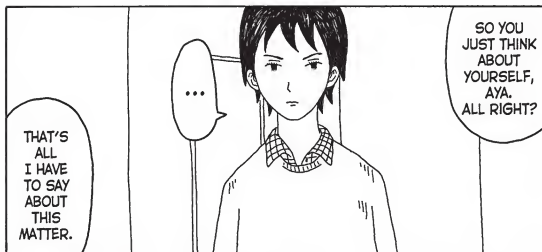


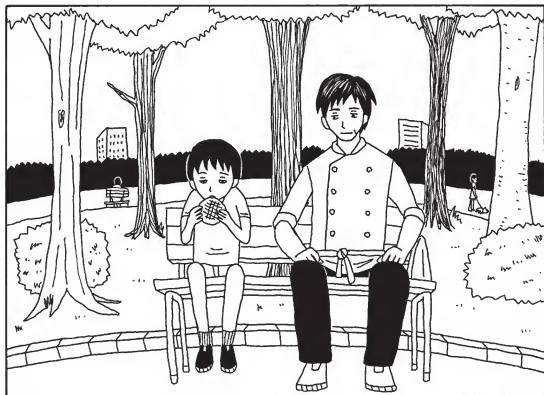


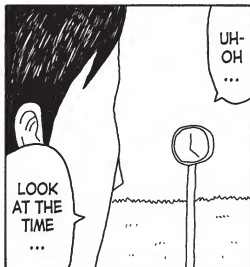
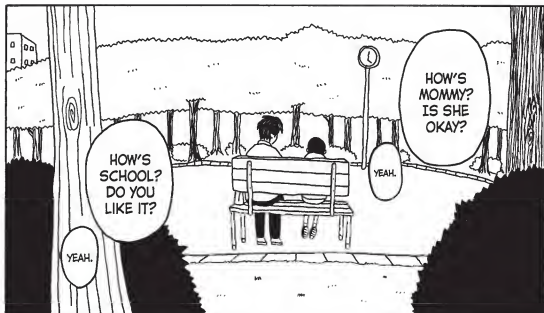


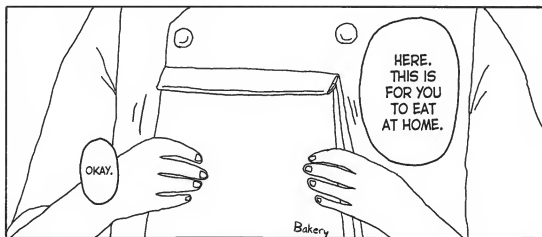
I MEAN,
HOW
LONG'S
IT BEEN?



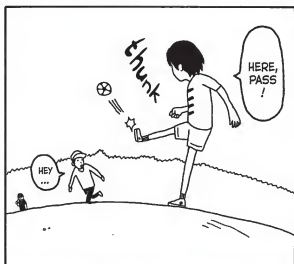


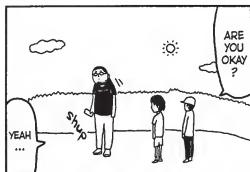
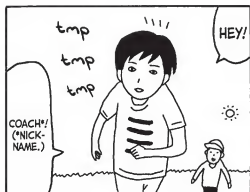


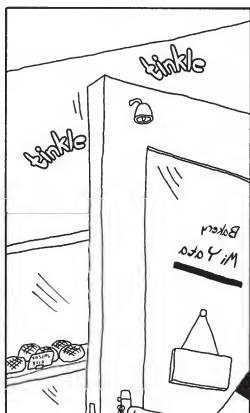
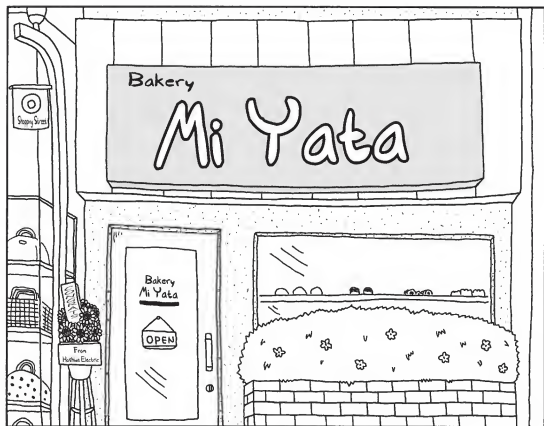


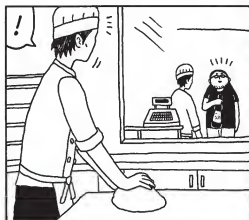
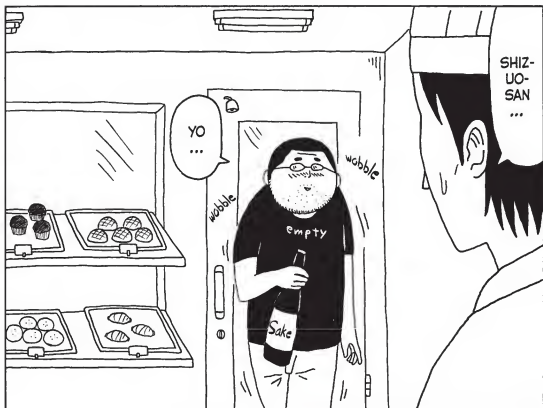




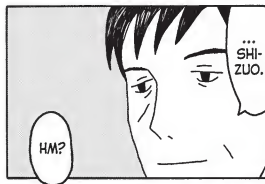
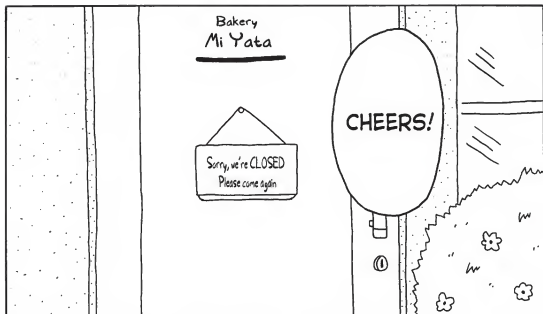




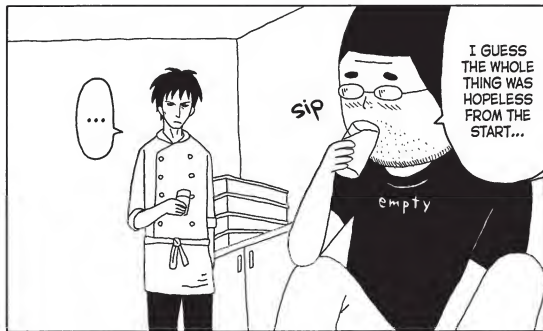


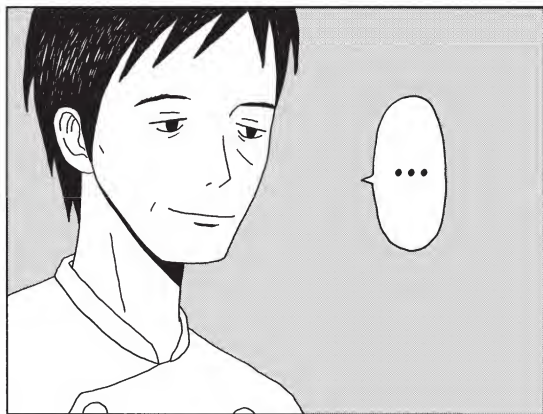








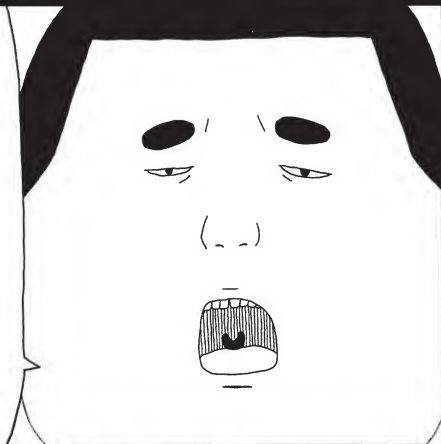








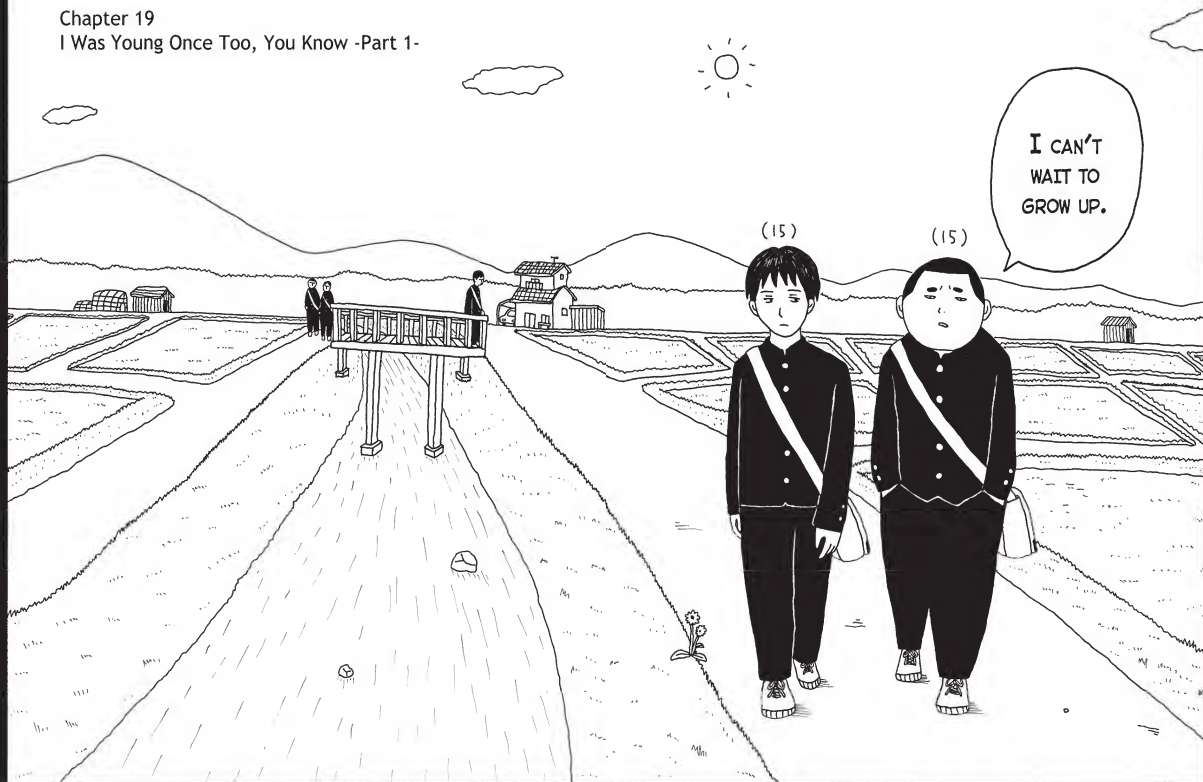
AAARRGH!



Chapter 19: I Was Young Once Too, You Know—Part 1

Chapter 19

I Was Young Once Too, You Know -Part 1-





HEY,
MIYATA
...



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
SHIZUO?

DIDJA GET
YELLED AT
BY YOUR
DAD
AGAIN?



Damned Fool!
(45)

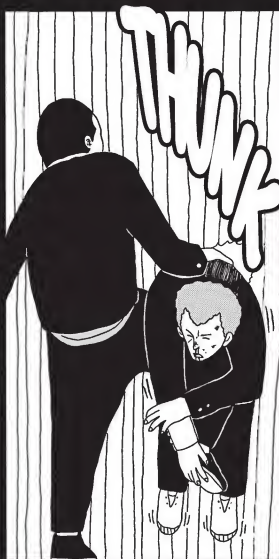
LIKE MY DAD
AND ALL
THOSE DUMB
TEACHERS
AT SCHOOL!

WHAT MAKES
GROWN-UPS
THINK THEY
CAN PUSH US
AROUND
ALL THE
TIME?



JUST BECAUSE
THEY WERE
BORN BEFORE
WE WERE,
THAT GIVES
THEM THE
RIGHT?!

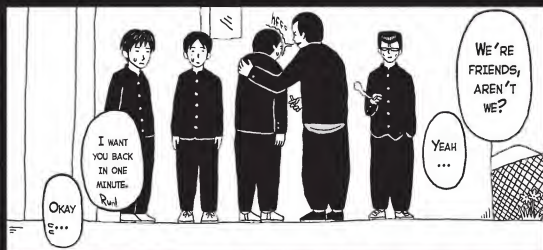




Akira Nakanishi,
age 15











IT'S
OKAY,
MISTER
OGURO.

I
INVITED
HIM TO
COME.



IF YOU
NEED
TO STUDY,
YOU CAN
DO THAT
AT HOME,
CAN'T YOU?

I DON'T
WANT YOU
ANNOYING
MIYATA-
KUN'S
FOLKS.



PLUS,
I'M ALWAYS
OVER HERE
EATING ALL
THIS FOOD
YOU MAKE,
SO...

BOTH MY
GRANDMA
AND MY
GRANDPA
REALLY LIKE
SHIZUO.



YOU'D
BETTER BE
STUDYING!

I
WILL!
Have some
trust, jeez.



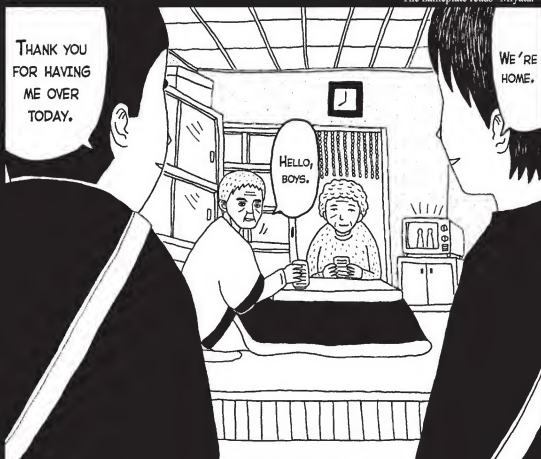
GIVE MY
THANKS
TO YOUR
GRAND-
PARENTS.

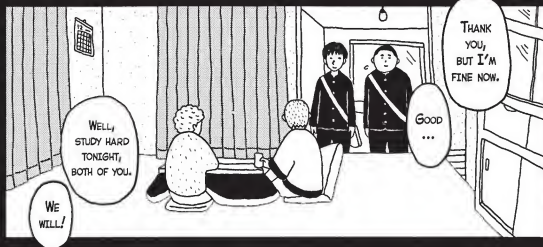
I
WELL...

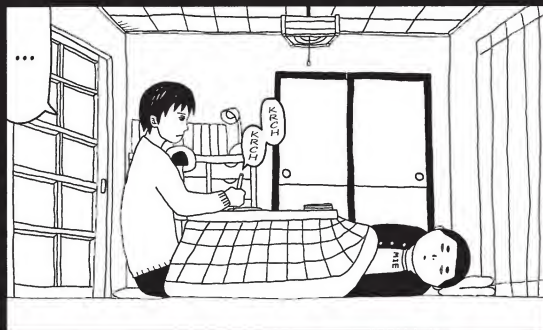
...
WELL,
ALL
RIGHT
THEN.



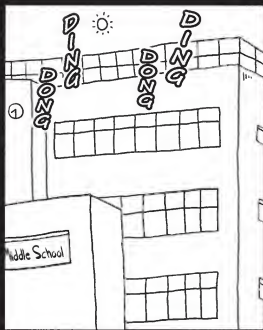
The nameplate reads "Miyata."

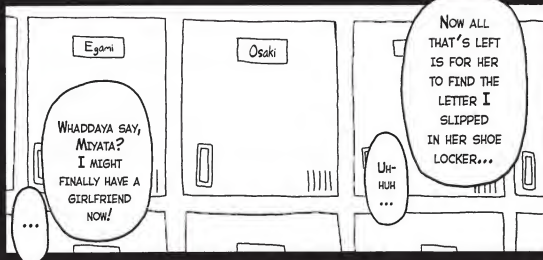
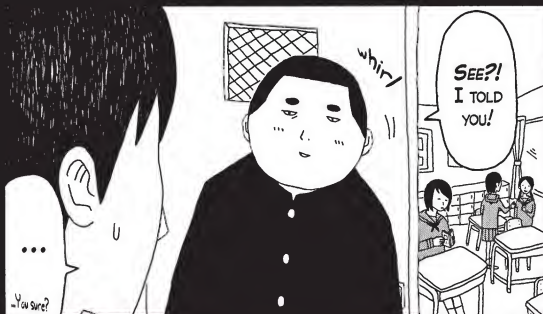


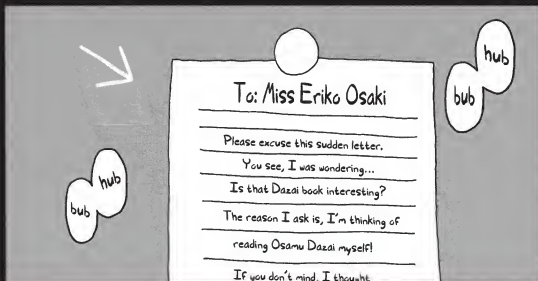












To: Miss Eriko Osaki

Please excuse this sudden letter.

You see, I was wondering...

Is that Dazai book interesting?

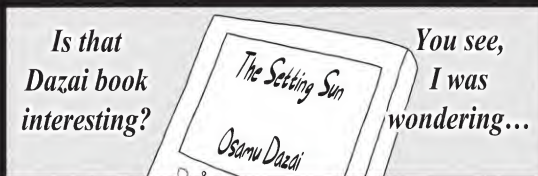
The reason I ask is, I'm thinking of
reading Osamu Dazai myself!

If you don't mind, I thought



Please
excuse
this
sudden
letter.

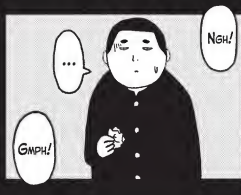
To:
Miss
Eriko
Osaki



Is that
Dazai book
interesting?

You see,
I was
wondering...

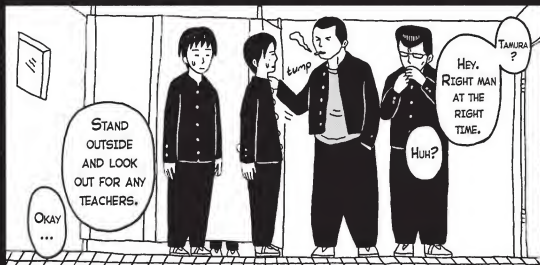




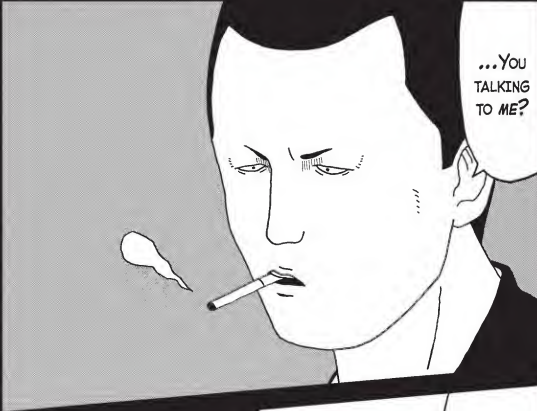












...YOU
TALKING
TO ME?

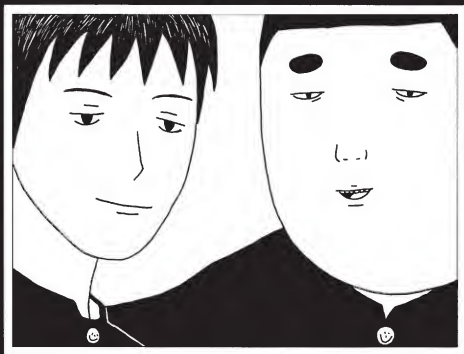


DARN
RIGHT,
I'M
TALKING
TO YOU!

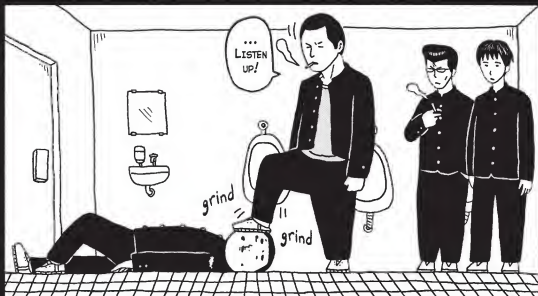
NAKA-
NISHI!

Chapter 20:

I Was Young Once Too, You Know— Part 2







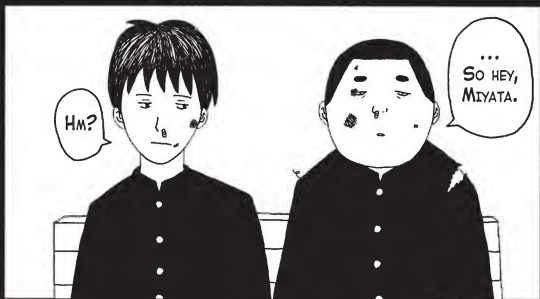
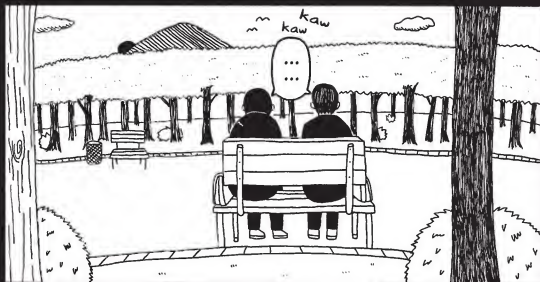


"Baka" means "idiot," hence the insulting pun.

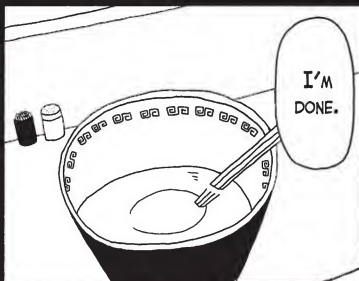




Zwox

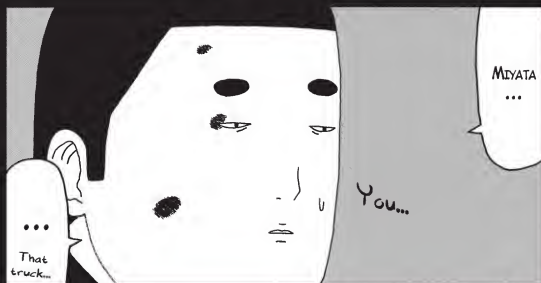


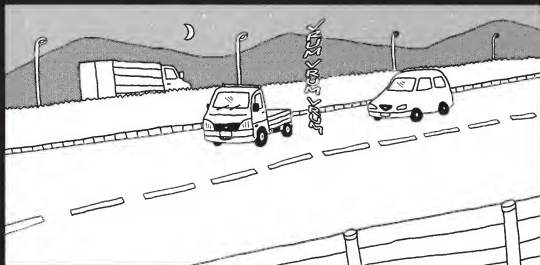






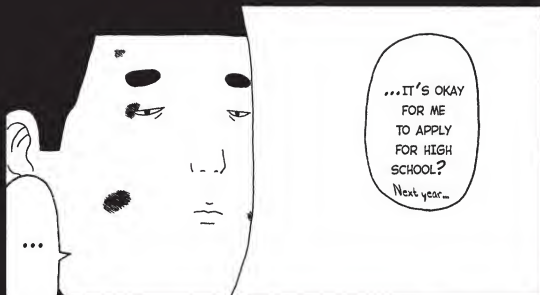






DID
NAKANISHI
CRACK YOU
IN THE
HEAD OR
SOMETHING?

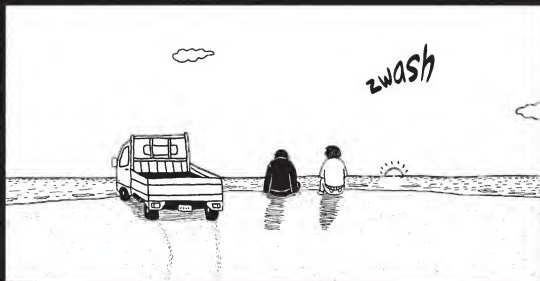




In Japan, compulsory education only runs through junior high.







I'M
USED
TO IT.
PLUS...

zwash

HEY,
NO BIG
DEAL.



zwash

SORRY TO
KEEP YOU
OUT ALL
NIGHT.

YOU'RE
GOING TO
GET IN BIG
TROUBLE
WITH YOUR
DAD...



I DON'T
FEEL LIKE
SEEING
OSAKI-SAN
RIGHT
NOW...

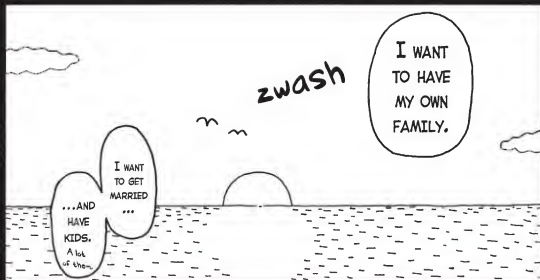
...

w
a
a
a
a
h

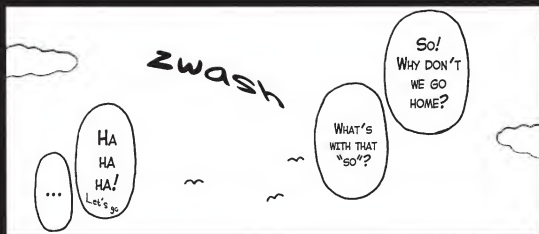
HOW
COME?

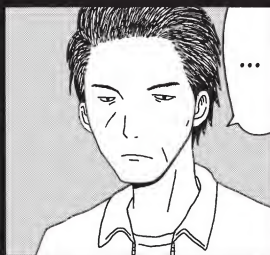
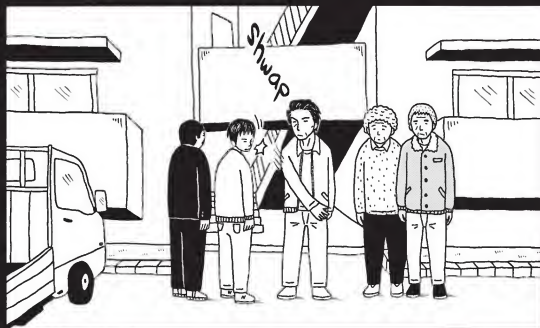
I DON'T
WANT TO
GO TO
SCHOOL...





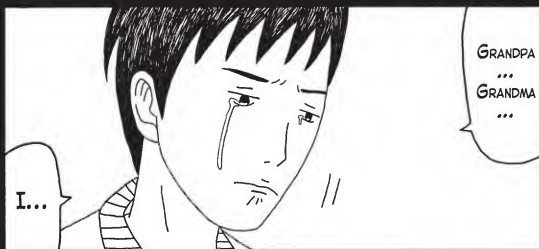




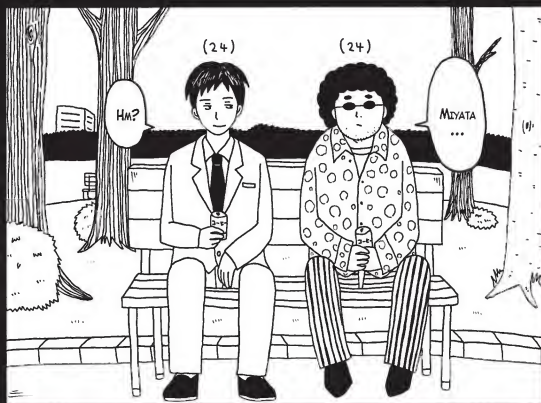




VERY
SORRY
...



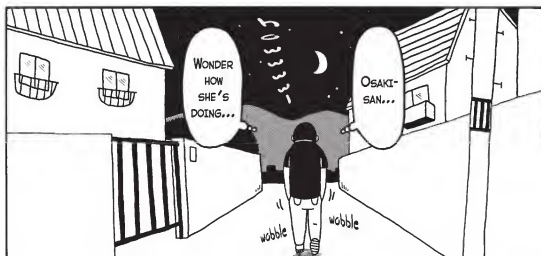
Nine years later.













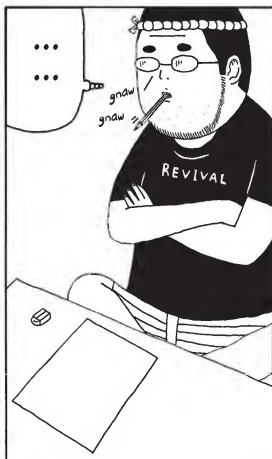
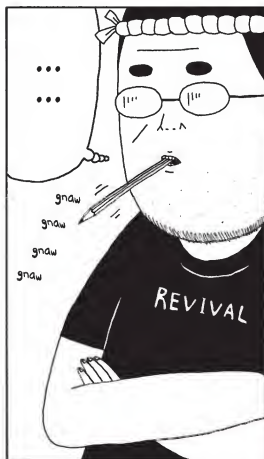
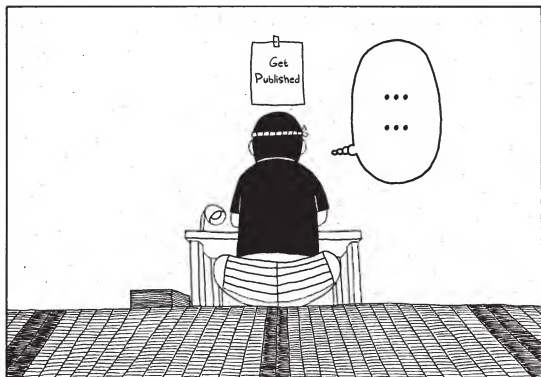
42-year-old man who's
just been slapped by his father.

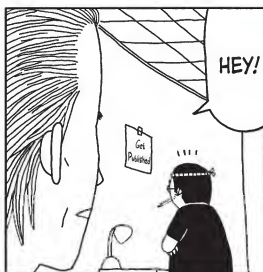
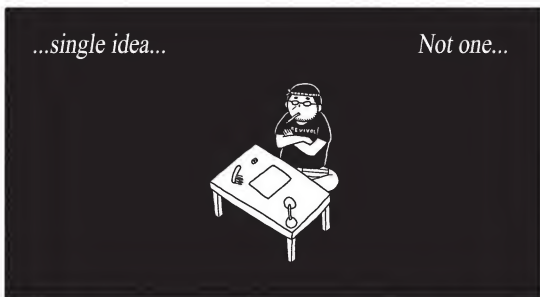
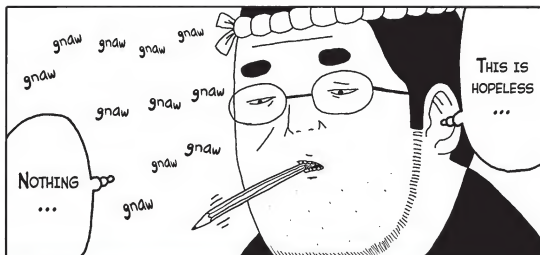


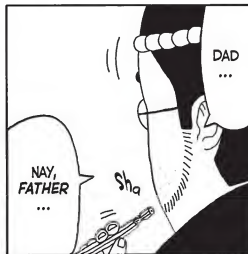
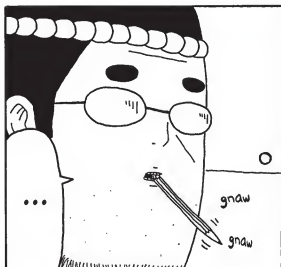
Chapter 21:

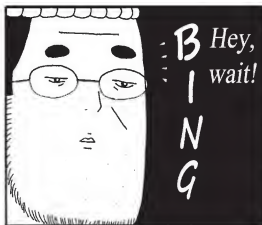
Faith







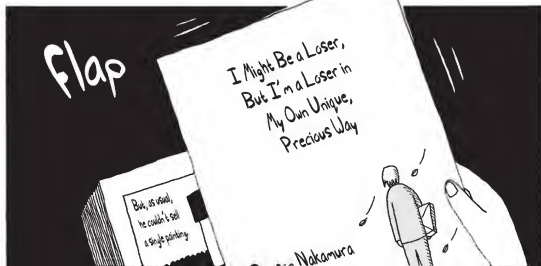
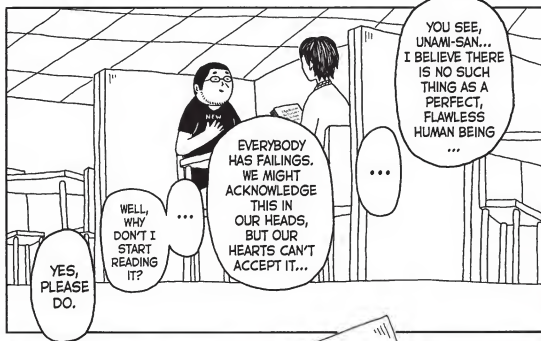


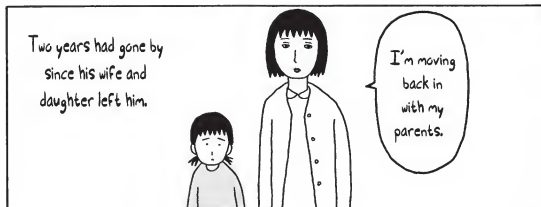
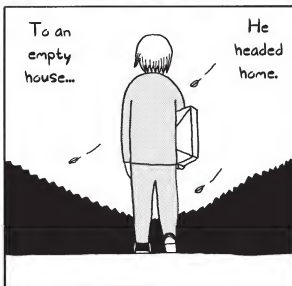


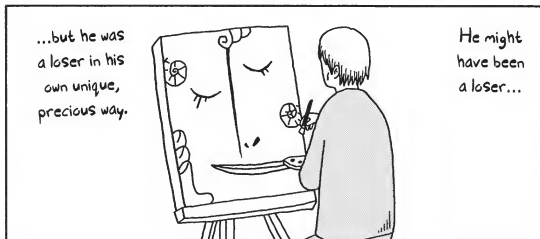
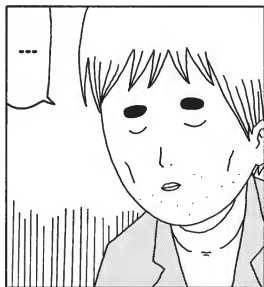
I Might Be a Loser,
But I'm a Loser in
My Own Unique,
Precious Way

Person Nakamura

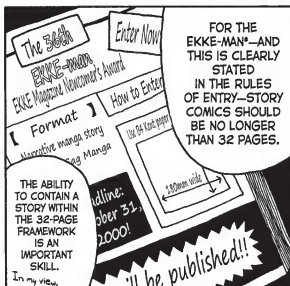
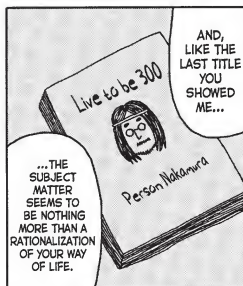
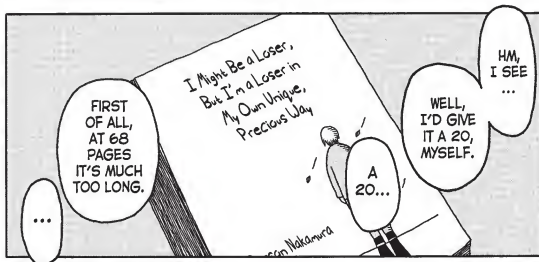


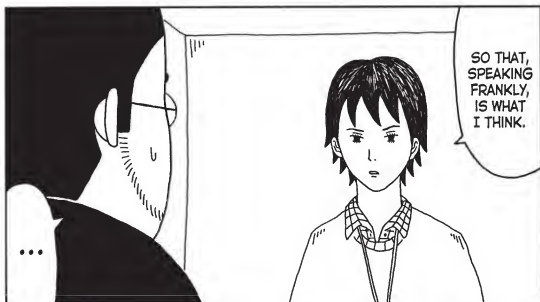












Ekke-man Primary Selection

FIRST,
THERE
IS THE
PRIMARY
SELECTION.

TWO EDITORS
READ ALL THE
SUBMISSIONS
AND COME
UP WITH A
SHORT LIST.

THIS LIST
CUTS THE
FIELD DOWN
TO ABOUT
20 ENTRIES.

THEN
THERE IS THE
SECONDARY
SELECTION,
WHERE ALL OF
THE EDITORS
TAKE PART.

EACH ENTRY
IS GRADED,
USING A
POINT SYSTEM,
FOR
ARTISTIC SKILL,
PLOT, AND
CHARACTER-
IZATION.

Secondary

Selection

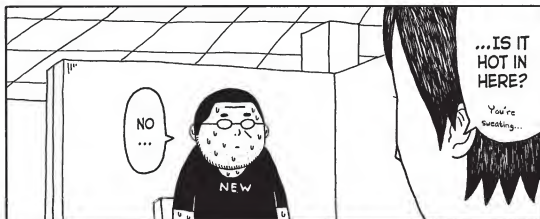
THOSE
WORKS
AWARDED
HIGHER THAN
HONORABLE
MENTION ARE
PUBLISHED
IN THE
MAGAZINE...

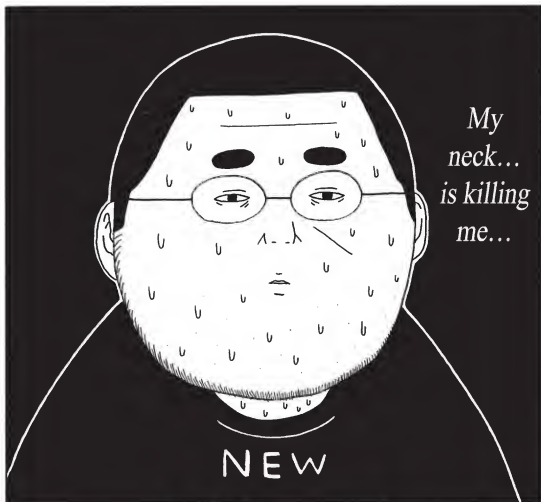
I
SEE
...

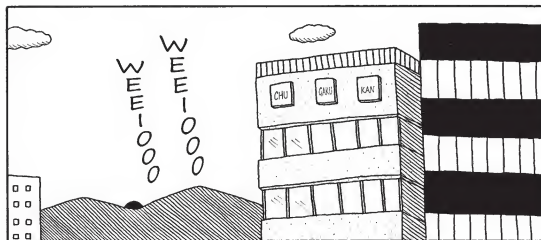
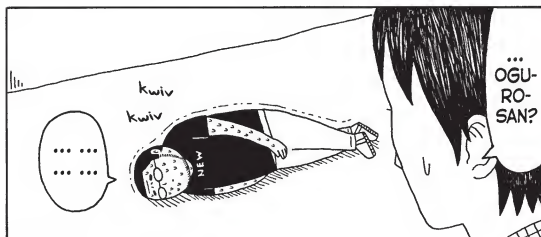
...WHICH
INVOLVES
EVERYONE IN
EDITORIAL
SITTING DOWN
TO AWARD
THE VARIOUS
PRIZES.

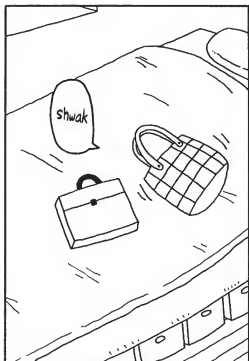
THE FIVE
OR SIX
ENTRIES WITH
THE HIGHEST
RATINGS
REACH
THE FINAL
STAGE...

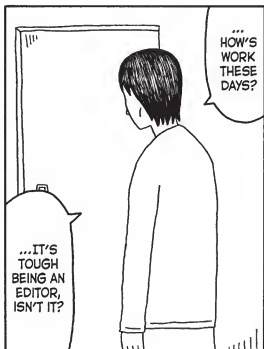


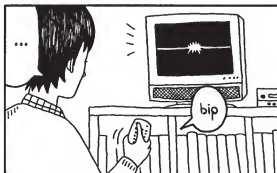
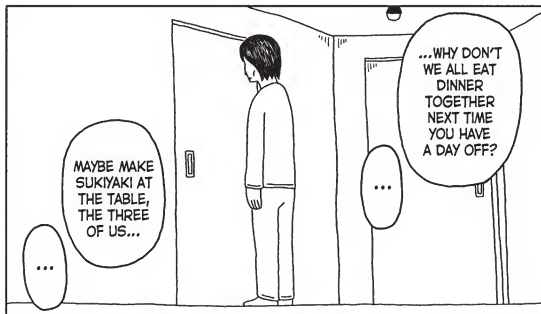


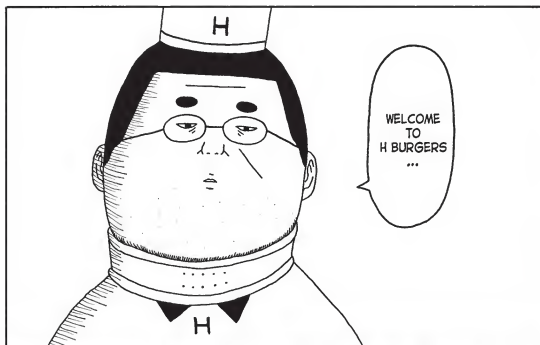
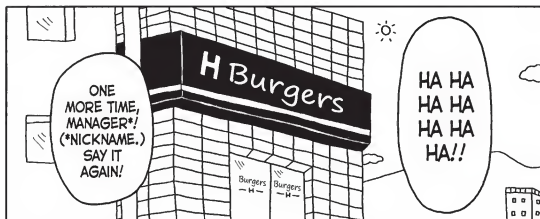


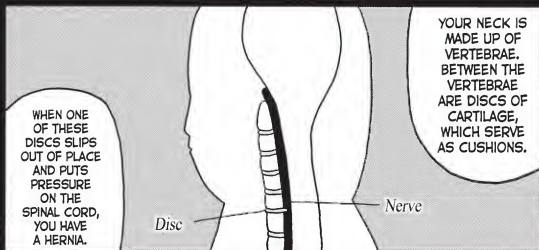


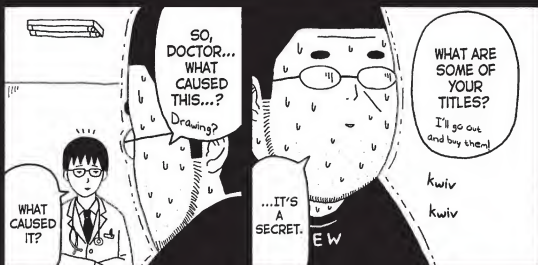




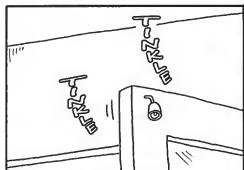












*I Might Be a Loser, But I'm a Loser in
My Own Unique, Precious Way*

By Person Nakamura (42)

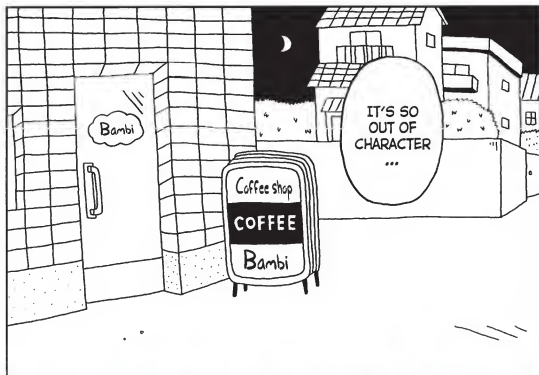


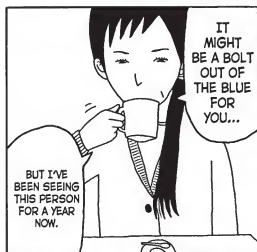
*Dropped in secondary selection stage
of the 36th Ekke-man contest.*

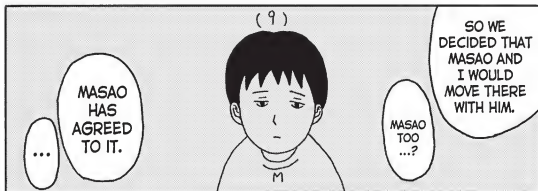
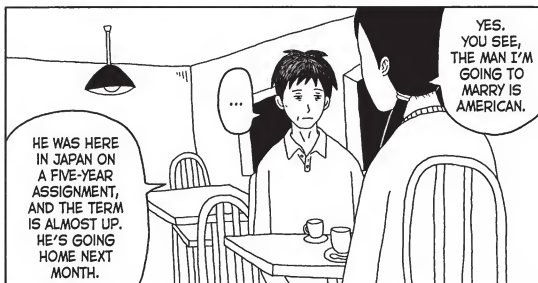
Chapter 22:

Midlife Crisis

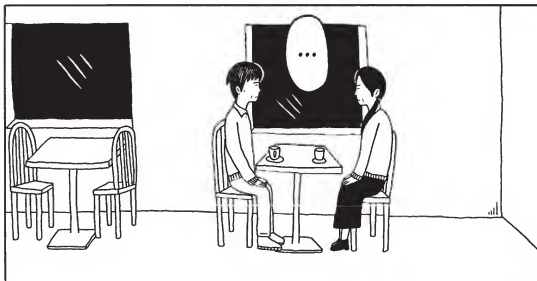
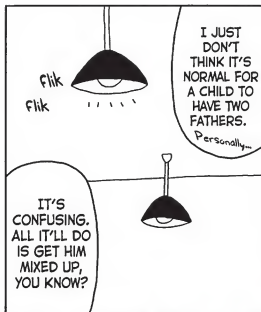








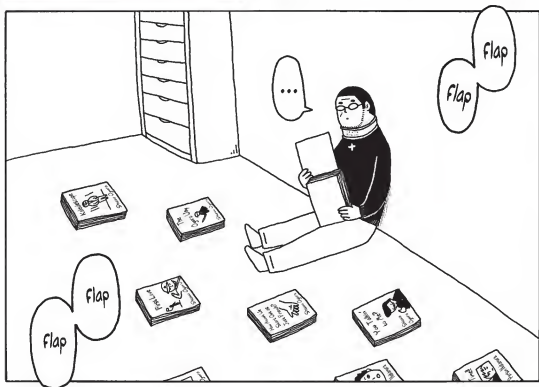


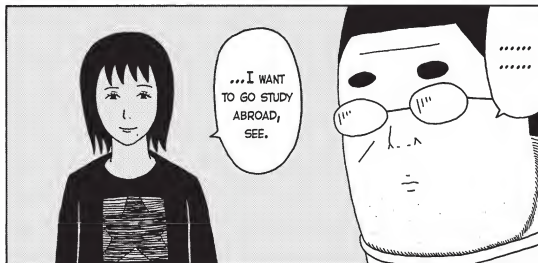
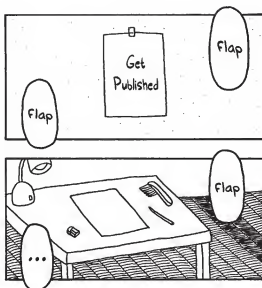


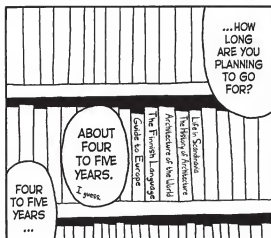
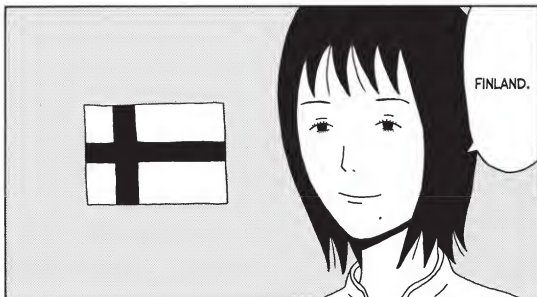


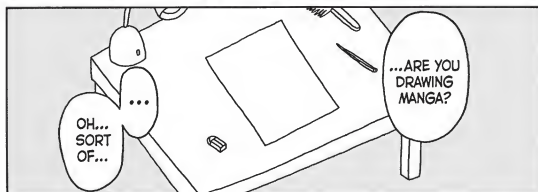
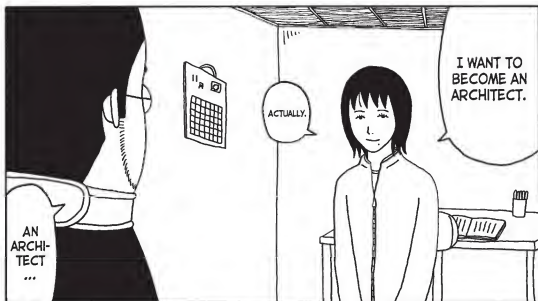


"For you to
get published...
is virtually
impossible."









36TH
EKKE NEWCOMER'S AWARD

THE EKKE-MAN

TITLE: I Might Be a Loser, But I'm a Loser in My Own Unique, Precious Way RETURN SCRIPT: [X]

NAME: Shizuo Oguro

PEN NAME: Person Nakamura

AGE: 42

OCCUPATION: Food service

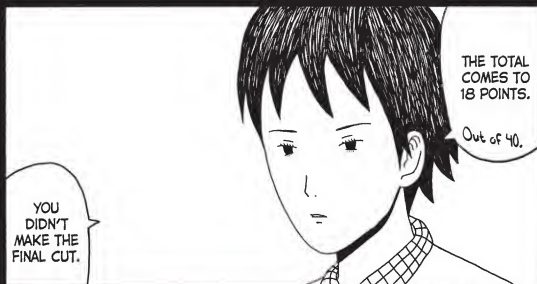
TELEPHONE #: XXX-XXXX-XXXX

ADDRESS: XXXX X-206, YYY City, ZZZ Pref.

OTHER: "A for Effort" Prize in 17th Ekke-man, Honorable Mention in 32nd Ekke-man

A:	I love his drive and enthusiasm, but... publication might be pretty difficult.	2	E:	Agree with D, but see signs of effort so...	2
B:	Personally, I enjoyed the story. And I think he's improved since his first few entries.	4	F:	It was long, but I could get through it. The story, though, seems really self-absorbed to me. If only he'd give some more thought to his readers...	3
C:	I don't dislike the character. And I won't say the story's no good. The art needs more work.	2	G:	I was reading it thinking, "Nothing's happening," and sure enough, I got to the last page and nothing had happened.	2
D:	Too long.	1	H:	His drawing style is a lot like T Sensei's. I think he needs to find his own style first and compete with that.	2

WORKS ARE EVALUATED ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5. (5 IS THE BEST SCORE, 1 IS THE WORST SCORE)





IN THAT SENSE,
MY OWN TASTES—
AND THEREFORE
EVALUATION—
MIGHT BE CLOSER
TO THOSE OF
EDITORS D AND E.

...THERE
ARE
PEOPLE
WHO RATE
YOUR WORK
QUITE
HIGHLY.

HOWEVER,
LIKE EDITOR
B HERE,
AND YOUR
FORMER
EDITOR
MURAKAMI-
SAN...



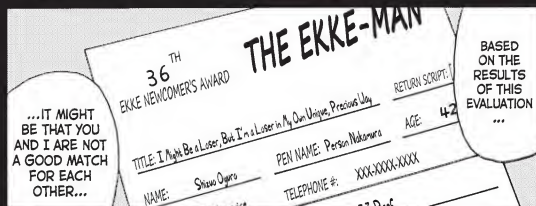
...FRANKLY,
THERE IS
NO REAL
ANSWER
WHEN IT
COMES TO
MANGA.

As to what's
good or not...

AND
SO
...

YOU COULD
SAY WE'RE
JUST A
SAMPLE
OF THE
READERSHIP
OUT THERE.

THESE
COMMENTS
ARE,
AFTER ALL,
THE PERSONAL
OPINIONS
OF THE SIX
EDITORS
AT EKKE.



...IT MIGHT
BE THAT YOU
AND I ARE NOT
A GOOD MATCH
FOR EACH
OTHER...

36TH
EKKE NEWCOMER'S AWARD

THE EKKE-MAN

TITLE: *I Might Be a Loser, But I'm a Loser in My Own Unique, Precious Way*

RETURN SCRIPT: *1*

AGE: *42*

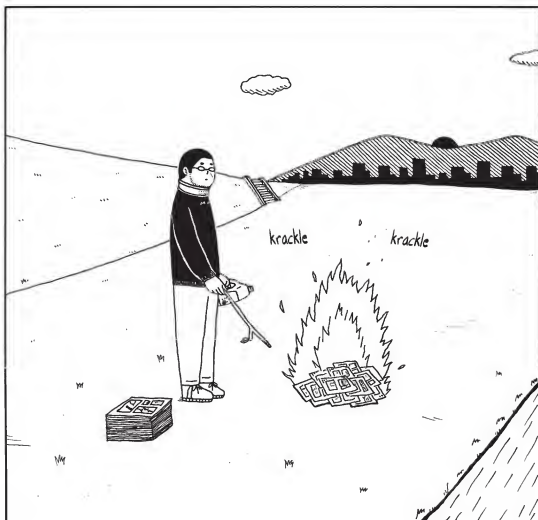
PEN NAME: *Person Nakamura*

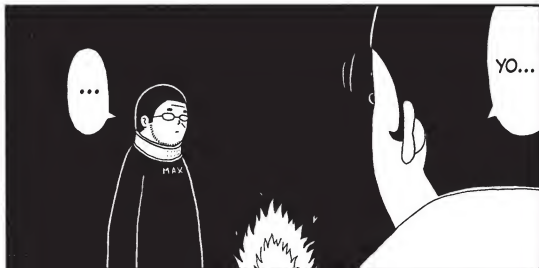
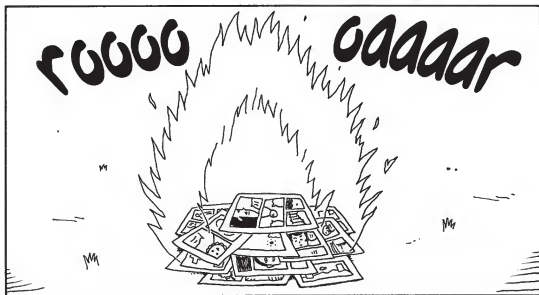
NAME: *Shizuo Ogura*

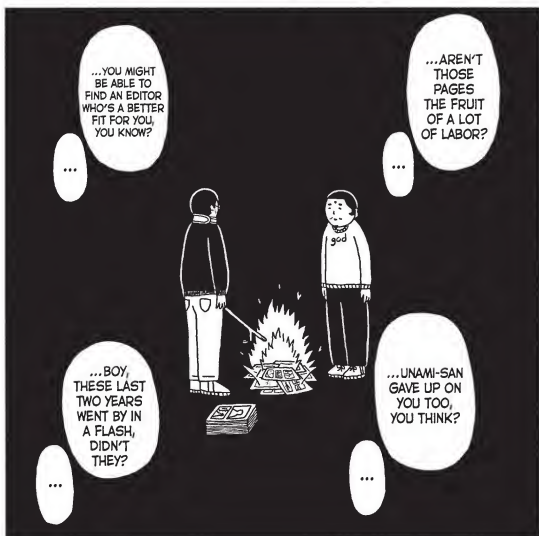
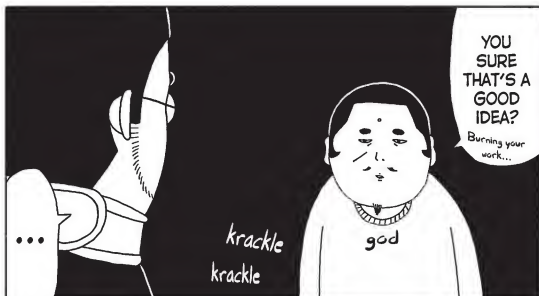
TELEPHONE #: *XXXX-XXXX-XXXX*

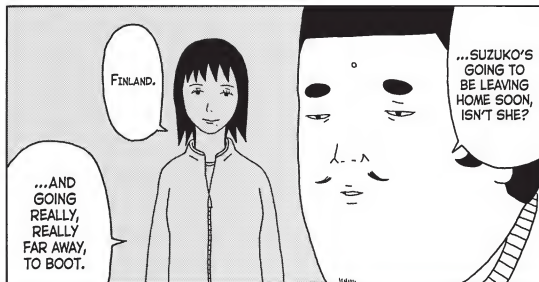
BASED
ON THE
RESULTS
OF THIS
EVALUATION
...



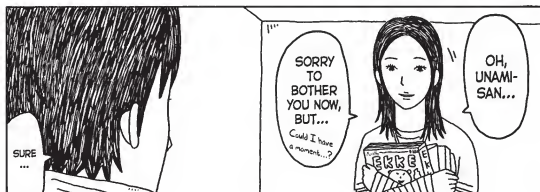
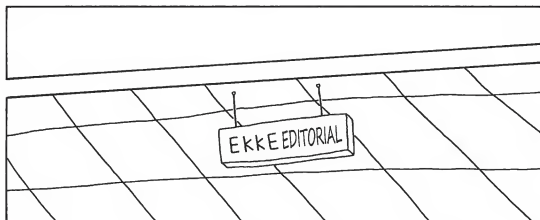


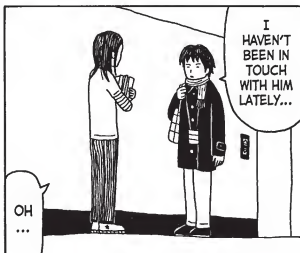
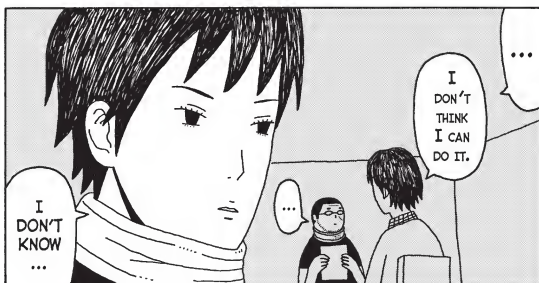
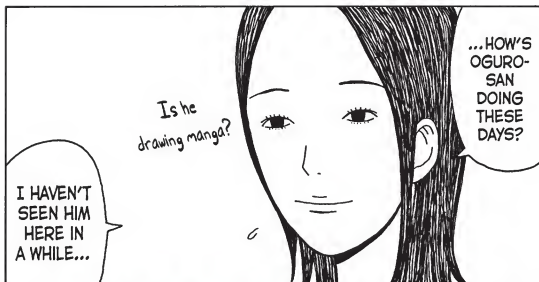










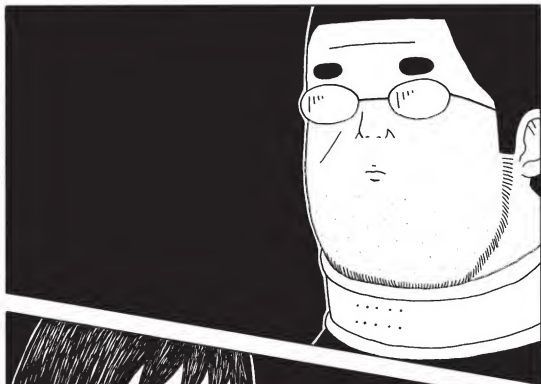






WON'T
YOU STAY
WITH ME?

MAX





Bonus Chapter:

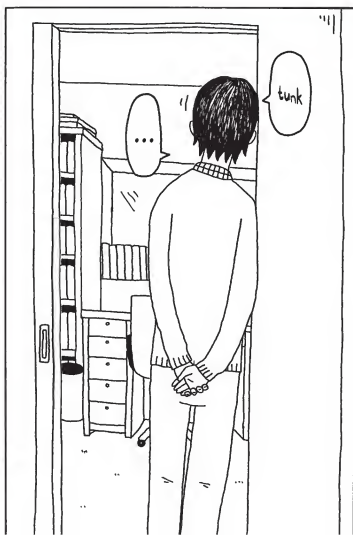
All About Aya Unami





They're all crazy...

All of them...

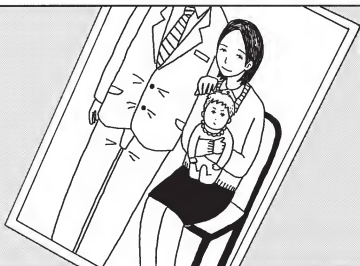


...23 years ago.

I was born...



My parents
were both
25 at the
time.



...so she
could take
good care
of me.



My
mother,
mean-
while,
stayed
at home

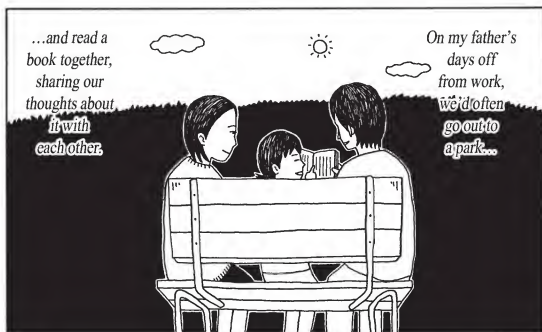
He was,
by all
accounts,
hard-working
and
well-liked
in the
office.

KUROKAWA
FOODS

KUROKAWA
FOODS

My father
had a
job at a
food
company.

KUROKAWA FOODS



*I think that
must have been
the time we were
happiest as a family.*

Two years later.

At the slightly advanced age of 37, my father had become a published author.

I COULD TELL YOU ABOUT THAT, BUT IT'S A REALLY LONG STORY

MAMORU UNAMI

WINNER OF THE TSUBAME JOURNAL'S NEWCOMER AWARD

DEBUT NOVEL BY A MAJOR NEW TALENT!!

A novel my father had been writing in his spare time won a small literary magazine's Newcomer Award, and was published as a book.

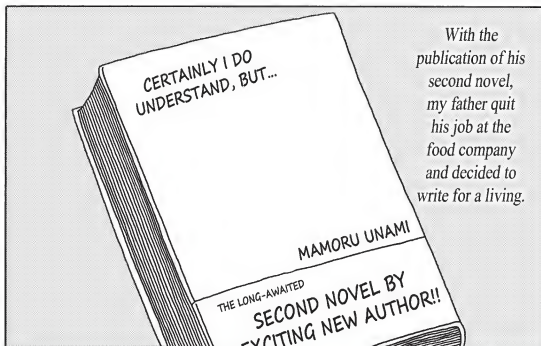
In fact, I could still recite practically the whole thing today.

I read my father's novel over and over, so many times.

OKAY.

TIME TO GO TO SLEEP NOW, AYA.

I was 12 years old at the time, and very excited by this.



With the publication of his second novel, my father quit his job at the food company and decided to write for a living.

My father's books didn't sell...

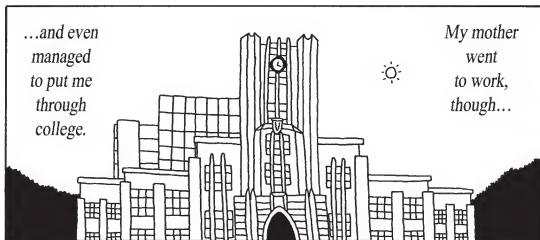
But...

...he hasn't been able to publish a single thing.



...and even
managed
to put me
through
college.

My mother
went
to work,
though...



I couldn't
understand...



Day...
after
day...

I'M
HOME
...

(19)



All that time,
my father
continued
to write,
every single
day.

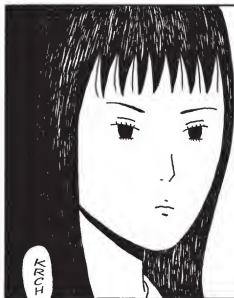
Nor my
mother,
who slaved
away at
several jobs
to support
him...

WELL,
I'D
BETTER
HEAD OFF
TO MY
NIGHT
JOB.

WEL-
COME
BACK,
AYA.



Not my
father,
who continued
to write like
he was
possessed by
something...



KRCH

Before long,
I found
myself less
interested in
books than in
the people
who wrote them.

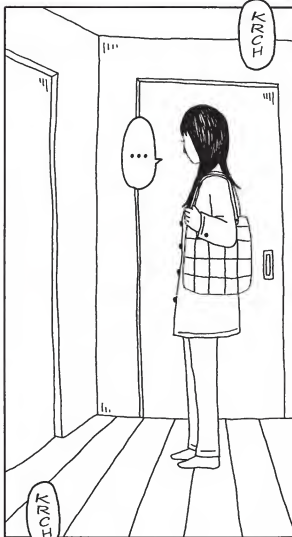
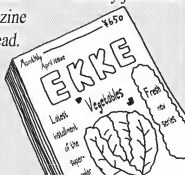
YUUI

After I graduated
from college,
I got a job at
a publishing
company.



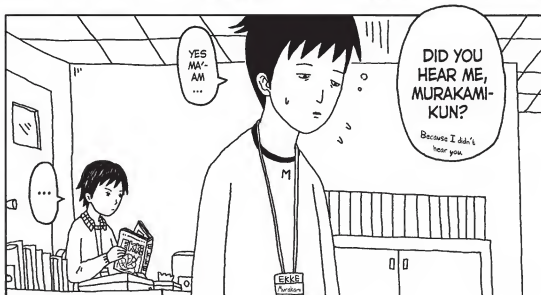
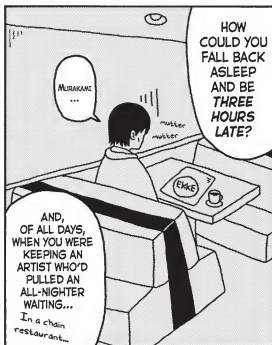
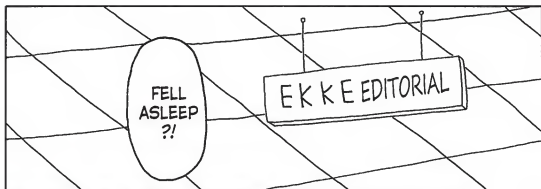
...but I was
assigned to
a comic
magazine
instead.

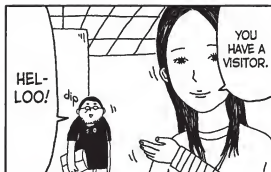
I'd hoped
to work on a
literary journal...

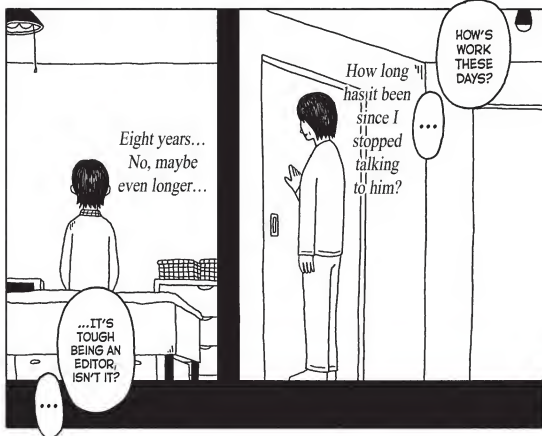


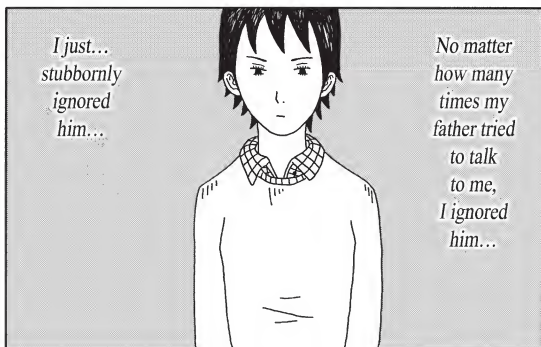
KRCH

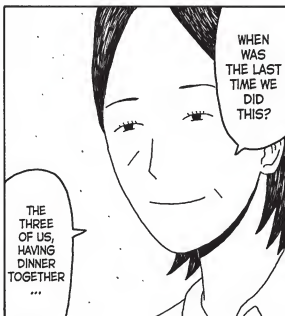
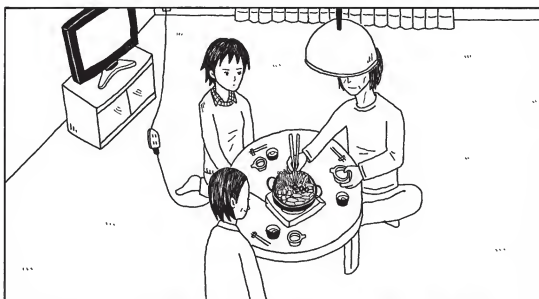
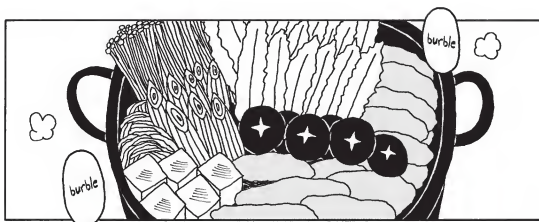
YUUI

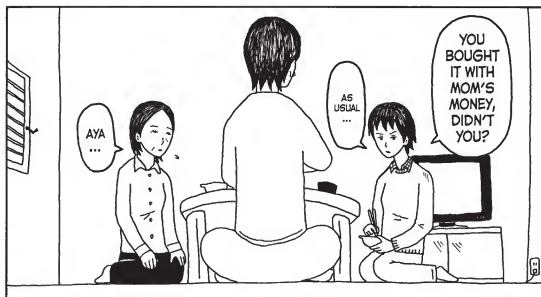












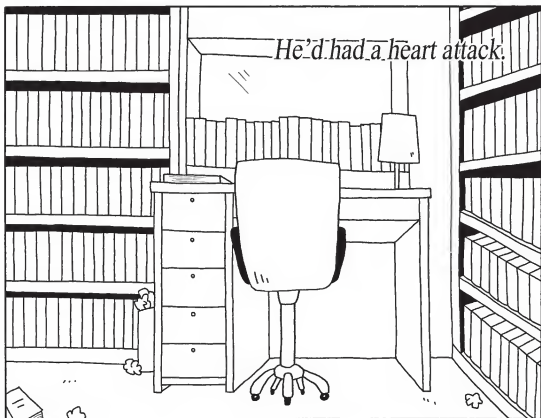
*Those were the
last words I
ever spoke to
my father...*

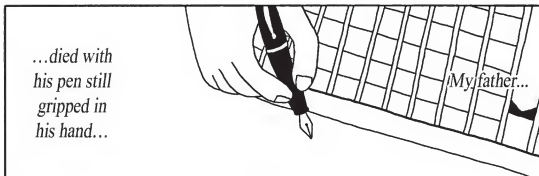
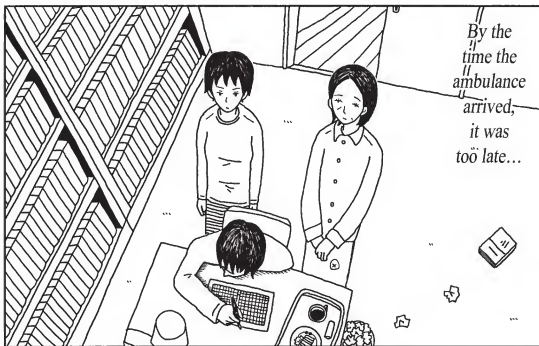
...he was dead.

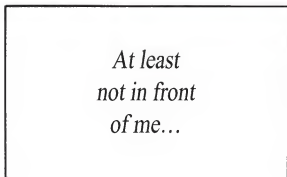
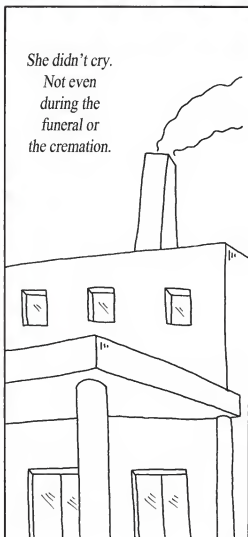
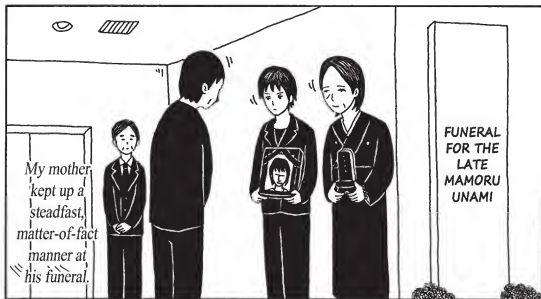
The next morning...

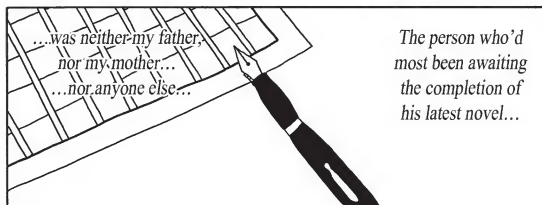
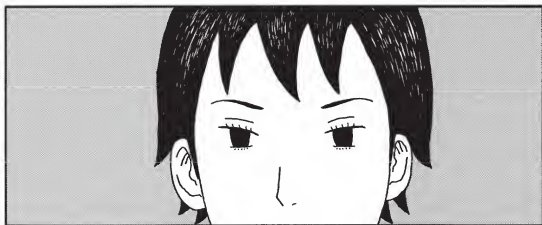


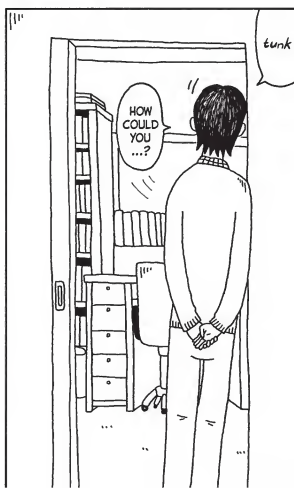
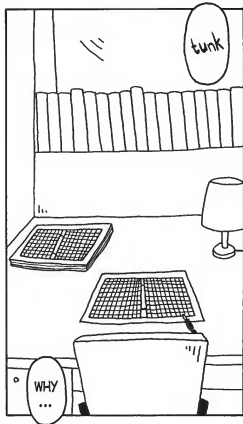
Hē'd had a heart attack.

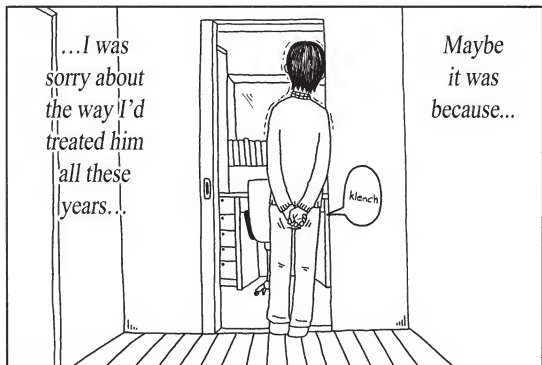












WON'T
YOU STAY
WITH ME?





...that for a moment...



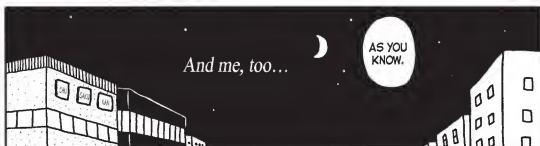
*...it felt like
it was my father
standing there...*



And Oguro-san...

*My father...
My mother...*

They're all crazy...

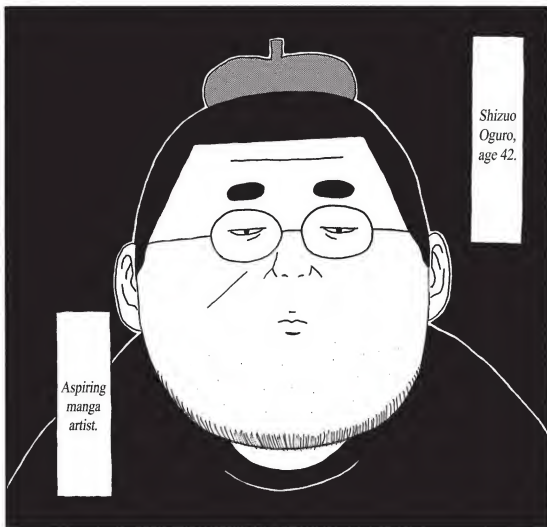






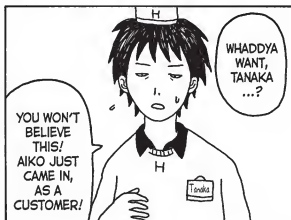
Extra:

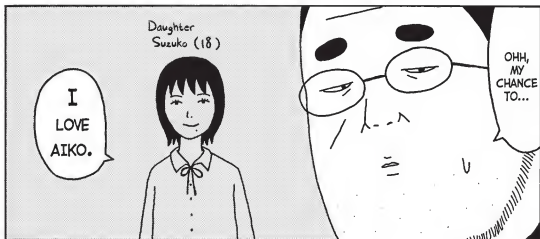
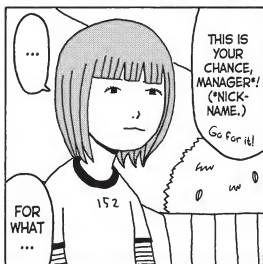
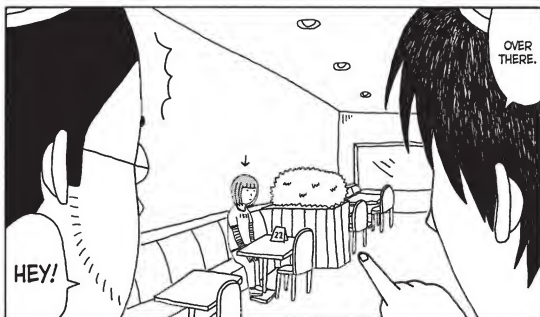
aiko comes to H Burgers

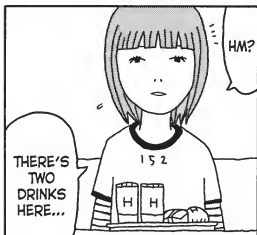


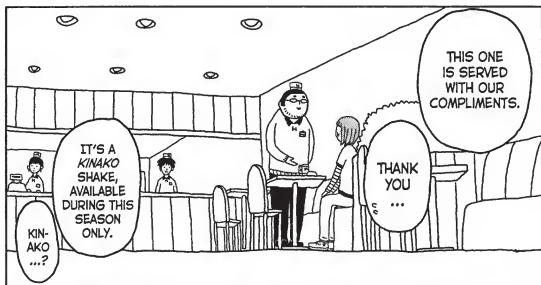
Shizuo
Oguro,
age 42.

Aspiring
manga
artist.

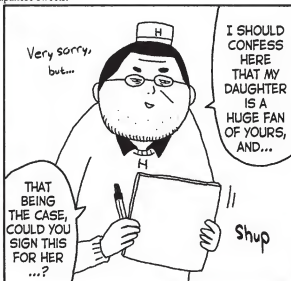




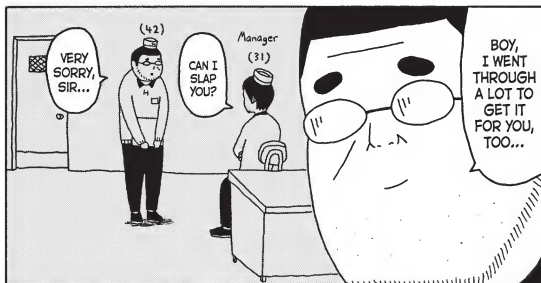
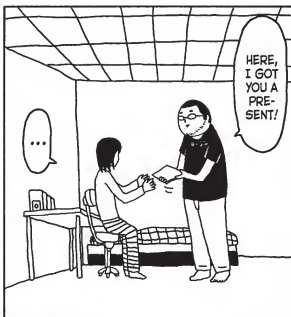
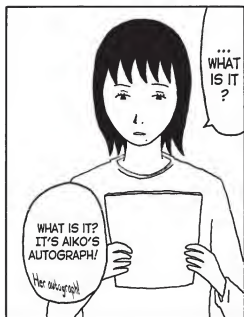


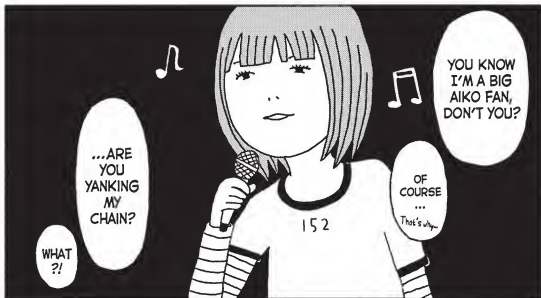


Kinako is ground roasted soybean, often sprinkled on Japanese sweets.



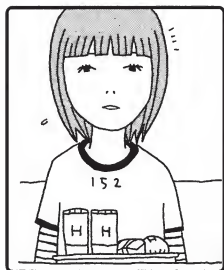






Rather than insist the autograph is genuine, back down to avoid daughter's ire: this was the wrenching decision that Shizuo Oguro, age 42, was forced to make.

Autograph cooperation: aiko



This bonus chapter was created for the tour pamphlet accompanying singer-songwriter aiko's concert tour, "Love Like Pop vol. 12."

I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL...TOMORROW

Volume 4

VIZ Signature Edition

Story & Art by SHUNJU AONO

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